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## Letters to the Editor

### Faulty Intelligence

Your Oct. 17 issue features some reassuring remarks by Mr. Adam Yarmolinsky to the effect that Washington would probably not be a nuclear target. He may be well qualified to coordinate the Defense Department's shelter program, but his intelligence method is faulty.

American military intelligence has long scorned any attempt to guess enemy intentions. The approved method is to assess the enemy's capabilities. If the latter process is used the answer is, yes the enemy can detonate a nuclear warhead on Washington, he may do so, and we had better anticipate the event rather than dwell happily on reasons why he may not choose to do so.

Even if we accept Mr. Yarmolinsky's comforting view a serious question arises with respect to a shelter program which is limited to providing fallout shelters in probable blast areas. If many cities are spared at first because the enemy concentrates his initial attack on military targets, will the populations of large cities remain in them?

I suggest the possibility of mass exodus, triggered by the thought of escaping certain death when the enemy directs his weapons to the cities. There seems to be no flexibility in the shelter program to allow for a sudden uncontrolled shift of population that might result from the very course of action Mr. Yarmolinsky thinks the enemy will adopt.

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